

Report to Probation Oversight Commission

Presented By:
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The mission of the Probation Oversight Commission (POC) is to re-imagine probation services in the County of Los Angeles to achieve accountability, transparency, and healing of the people served by and working for the Probation Department. The POC creates pathways for community engagement to foster trust between the community and the Probation Department. The POC ensures adherence to the highest ethics and the proper stewardship of public funds to support Probation in achieving the best outcomes for youth and adults on Probation.

Launching the Commission

- Hired three of the other four approved POC positions including a Management Secretary (March 2021), Management Analyst (June 2021), and Project Director (June 2021).
- Held the inaugural meeting of the POC on February 22, 2021, ten subsequent full commission meetings, and six “town hall” meetings.
- Elected leadership of the POC including Franky Carrillo as Chair, Esché Jackson as Vice Chair, and Dolores Canales as Secretary. The leadership team is remarkable in that all three were formerly incarcerated and provide lived experience that was visualized by the Probation Reform Implementation Team (PRIT). [New POC Leadership](#)
- Identified a physical office for the POC that is accessible to the community and to meeting space that can safely accommodate large groups of attendees.

Community Engagement

- Built a distribution list of over 3,600 people. Meeting attendance averages 100 participants per meeting with 128 people attending the August 12, 2021 meeting.
- Held six Town Halls to receive information from the public about the POC's strategic planning efforts and education oversight. The POC received very positive feedback from community members and county partners about the meetings and dialogue within them. We plan to continue to offer Town Halls on multiple topics including DJJ-related issues as we move forward with the process.
- Launched social media accounts (@LACountyPOC) on all social media platforms. The meetings are live streamed on Facebook to encourage participation and provide the opportunity for the public to view the meetings on video if they cannot attend.
- POC Executive Director meets monthly with LAYUP (LA Youth Uprising Coalition) and regularly with other internal and external organizations including Justice LA, the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR), Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI), the LA County Youth Commission, Public Defender's Office (PD), Alternate Public Defender's Office (APD), the District Attorney's Office (DA), STRTPs, and many other nonprofit community-based organizations.
- Developing a media plan to increase community engagement in new sectors with a focus on families and individuals impacted by Probation.

Facility Inspections

- Connected with the state Board of State and Community Correction (BSCC) and the Probation Department to begin the inspections this month.
- Developed a form and inspection protocol to inspect all the open facilities before December 2021. Those reports will be shared with BSCC and the public.
- Trained commissioners on how to conduct inspections thoroughly and safely.
- Facilitated site visits for commissioners and staff to all of the open facilities and several closed facilities.

Board of Supervisors

- POC Executive Director is in regular communication with the Justice Deputies and provides a written and oral report to them once a month at the Public Safety Cluster meeting.
- POC Executive Director provides a quarterly update individually to each of the five Supervisors to discuss priorities and challenges.

Strategic Planning

- Analyzed the 98 PRIT reform priorities and divided them into four strategic work areas.
 - Facility Conditions and Closure recommendations
 - Training, Personnel, and Management
 - Programs and Services (Adult and Youth)
 - Research, Data, and Reporting
- Contracted a consultant to complete the strategic plan focused on action steps over the next year.

Collaboration with the Probation Department

- Developed a protocol for requesting information from the Probation Department and made several requests which have been responded to and received by the POC in the form of timely and complete responses.
- POC Executive Director is in regular communication with Chief Deputy Probation Officer Brandon Nichols as the point person for the Commission.

Grievances/Complaints

- Despite not yet finalizing or publishing the complaint/grievance process that will be worked out with the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and Probation, the POC has received seven complaints since February 2021 and has worked closely and effectively with OIG and Probation to appropriately respond to them. Increased staffing of both the POC and OIG are necessary to effectively manage and investigate complaints/grievances in the future.
- The priority continues to be the creation of a complaint/grievance process that parallels the Civilian Oversight Commission's process where complaints and grievances can come in through the POC but will be directed to OIG for initial review and then to Probation for investigation.